

PRISONER TELLS OF THE KILLING

Marovich Details Repeated
Threats Made Against His
Life by Popovich.

HIS WIFE ALSO TESTIFIES

ATTACKED BY MAN LATER
SLAIN BY HER HUSBAND.

Hunched forward in his chair in the position which has become familiar to the jury during his trial, with the prison pail giving way to a ghastly white, with lips set and hands tightly clenched, Steve Marovich yesterday listened to the last chapter of the story of his feud with Mike Popovich which ended in Popovich's death, as related by his wife. The prisoner solemnly made a move during the examination attack upon her by Popovich two weeks before the shooting, but when he himself took the stand he gave his account of the shooting and the events which led to it with expressive gestures, and so rapidly that the interpreters were unable at times to follow him.

Mrs. Milka Marovich, who took the stand at the opening of court yesterday morning, told of the happenings which immediately preceded the shooting, and then, in answer to the questions of Soren X. Christensen, one of the attorneys for her husband, described in detail the attempted assault made upon her by Popovich about two weeks before the killing. Mrs. Marovich maintained her composure during the relation of her painful story, although with an evident effort, but under the rough cross-examination of District Attorney Loofbourn the tears streamed down her cheeks and she crumpled her soggy handkerchief into a ball between her trembling fingers. Mrs. Marovich told her story with admirable clearness and did not waver under cross-examination.

The day's session was marked by constant differences of opinion among the interpreters, and a most important portion of Mrs. Marovich's testimony was changed upon the record by red-rect examination through another interpreter.

More About Deputy Forbes.

The testimony of Marovich again deeply involved Deputy Sheriff Forbes on the charge of using his official position to further his business as proprietor of the Berkeley Club saloon and showed the immense power of Joe Melich, partner of Forbes, among the Austrians of Bingham, especially among those connected with the Greek orthodox church.

Judge Armstrong is hastening the trial in every way, and from now on court will convene at 9:30 in the morning and at 1:30 in the afternoon. Instead of at 10 and 2 o'clock. Marovich will again take the stand today, and after a few questions from the defense will be turned over to the state for cross-examination.

Mrs. Marovich took the stand upon

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the opening of court. She substantiated the story of the shooting as told by the other witnesses for the defense and showed the positions occupied by her husband and Popovich at the time the shooting. She then told how Popovich and two companions had come to her house at 11 o'clock at night, about two weeks before the shooting, how they had ordered four bottles of beer and how the two friends threatened her life if she did not comply with their requests. She stated that in response to her screams Mike Blockovich and another man came into the room and that Popovich then left. She said that she feared to tell her husband of the occurrence, as he had already had trouble with Popovich, and that she begged Popovich and Stillinovich to conceal what had happened from her husband. On cross-examination, she told practically the same story with additional details.

In the midst of the cross-examination, Mr. Christensen explained to the court that an answer of Mrs. Marovich on direct examination had been misunderstood by the witness, or had been misinterpreted, and asked permission to ask a leading question in order that the matter might be made clear on the record. Permission was granted and Mrs. Marovich stated that Popovich did not accomplish his evil purpose.

Marovich on the Stand.

Steve Marovich, the defendant, then took the stand. He stated, after being sworn, that he was 37 years old and was born in Gospie, or Grosopic, in the county of Lika, Croatia, Austria. He stated that he came to America three and a half years ago, and that he had lived twenty-eight months in Murray. He stated after working a month in Murray he went to Bingham, where he remained a month with friends, and then returned to Murray, where he worked in the smelter. He said his wife came to America two years and two months ago. He first met Popovich at Bingham three years and three months ago. After going to Bingham, he stated he worked two months in the Boston Cop. mine,

that he and his wife rented a room for the first month they were there, and then bought the house which they occupied until the shooting, his wife taking boarders, while he worked in the mines. He was employed by the Highland Boy for nine months.

Marovich stated that he had had difficulty with Popovich several times this year, that Popovich had been discharged from the Highland Boy and that he blamed Marovich for his discharge. He said that Popovich had threatened him and said that "either he or I must finish this." He repeated the threat a hundred times when the witness went to the Highland Boy office for his candles. Marovich then told the names of seven men who had heard the threat, which was made six and a half months before the shooting, and stated that there were other men who heard it, but who were afraid to tell. He said that Popovich had said to him: "You ghost, you are working for nothing, as you are going to die." The witness stated that he understood by this that he was to be waylaid and killed.

Attacked With Brass Knuckles.

Marovich then testified that the second time he had trouble with Popovich the latter attacked and struck him with brass knuckles, at a point near the blacksmith shop of the Highland Boy mine. At that time a man named George Irish and several other miners were present. He stated that the attack was witnessed by the timekeeper of the Highland Boy mine, who telephoned for the deputy sheriff. After waiting for half an hour the officer was again telephoned for by the storekeeper of the Highland Boy store, and the witness stated that the deputy sheriff told the people who wanted him were not his friends and that he would not come. The latter part of the answer was stricken from the record as hearsay evidence.

Marovich said that the deputy finally came, after he had been summoned four times, that he asked the officer to arrest Popovich and others, but that Forbes made no arrests. He saw Popovich at the office the next day when the latter said to him: "You why did you call a policeman to get me?" He said that he saw Popovich on the road on June 19, and that Popovich said to him: "This is the last time. I will fix you tonight." Marovich stated that Marco Saban was present at this meeting. This occurred before it was time for Marovich to go to work, and Dick Bray, the shift boss, asked him whether he was ill. He replied, "No, but I am mad." He stated that he then went to the sample man at the tunnel and asked him to telephone for Forbes. Forbes responded, but when he had arrived Popovich had departed. The witness related going to the Berkeley club, owned by Forbes and Melich, and asking Melich and Forbes to tell Popovich to let him alone. This was about May 12. The witness stated that his friends told him that he was to be waylaid by Popovich as he came home from work.

Melich the Main Squeeze.

It was most significant that both Mrs. Marovich and Marovich placed Melich's name first when appealing for protection, and Melich was evidently regarded as the authority who could grant or deny protection as he chose. After he had gone to the saloon to complain, Forbes came up to his house one night about 11 o'clock, when he told Forbes about the actions of Popovich and his friends, who he stated, had kicked in

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his door and fired their revolvers outside the house.

Marovich stated that he got up at 2:30 on the day of the shooting to get hot water for the boarders who were coming on night shift. He said that he had a long conversation with his wife that morning, in which she urged that they leave Bingham, as he might be killed at any time. She then told him of the actions of the three men who had come to the house at night two weeks before, but did not tell him the name of her assailant. She began to cry and scream, and would not tell for fear he would beat her. He finally said, "You are my wife and I am your husband. Tell me the name of the man." Just before 8 o'clock that morning she told him that Popovich was the man who had assaulted her. Although he was greatly upset, Marovich stated that he went to work that day, as he feared he would be discharged if he did not do so. When he returned from work he saw Joe Melich outside the house, and Forbes and Popovich a little way down the canyon. He then told Melich to tell Popovich to let him alone.

Forbes as a Collector.

Forbes then came up and he and Melich asked if Marovich had the money to pay the bill owing to the Berkeley club. He answered that he had, and told them to come into the house. They sat down together, and Melich said, "We will see that Popovich leaves you alone." He then brought out two bottles of beer, which they drank, and Mrs. Marovich got out \$105 from the trunk which she paid to Melich. Mrs. Marovich then asked Melich to tell Popovich to let them alone. The witness said that Forbes and Melich left after getting the money. He also named the men who were in the house at the time of the payment of the money. Marovich stated that he saw Popovich coming up the canyon as he was helping his wife wash the dishes; that he went outside and told Popovich to leave him, his wife and his boarders alone, and that Popovich answered by sticking out his tongue and drawing his gun. He stated that he then went into the house for his gun, and that when he returned his wife was telling Popovich to keep away. Popovich then said, "You kill me or I'll kill you," at the same time pointing his revolver. Marovich then told his wife to get her revolver at Popovich, shooting, he believes, five times. Marovich was then shown both guns which have been placed in evidence by the state, and denied that either gun was his. He stated that he did not stand at the door with two guns in his hands, and that he never owned but one gun, which he bought when assaulted with brass knuckles by Popovich.

Feared for His Life.

Marovich then detailed how he lighted a cigarette, went into the house, reloaded his revolver and gave himself up to Superintendent Raney of the Highland Boy mine. He answered, in reply to questions, that he was nearly killed between the Berkeley Club saloon, which is the deputy sheriff's office, and the jail. A crowd came up to the prisoners saying, "Kill him," and "Where is the ghost?" Marovich explained that the word "ghost" translated was used by the Greek Catholics when they threatened the Roman Catholics with death. He said that a man named Stedich then hit him on the head with a gun, knocking him down, and that two others took two guns away from Forbes, dropping them in the dust. The prisoner then told how he ran to the store to preserve his life. From the crowd, but stated that he did not make an attempt to get away from the officer. He stated that Forbes did nothing to protect his prisoners, but that he kicked some of the prisoners. Marovich will again take the stand this morning at 9:30 o'clock.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Yesterday's Record at the Local Office of the Weather Bureau.

Temperature at 6 p. m., 49 degrees; maximum temperature, 57 degrees; minimum temperature, 22 degrees; mean temperature, 41 degrees, which is 4 degrees above normal. Total excess of temperature since the 1st of the month, 23 degrees; accumulated deficiency of temperature since Jan. 1, 50 degrees. Total precipitation, none; total precipitation since 1st of month, none, which is .75 inch below normal. Accumulated excess of precipitation since Jan. 1, 4.35 inches. Relative humidity at 6 p. m., 50 per cent.

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